

Analytic Essay: MSW Program

Using a standard essay format with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Your essay should be 3-5 pages in length and be formatted using page numbers, a 12pt font, double-spacing, and one-inch margins. Your Sources must be credible and cited throughout your essay with references on an additional page titled References.

Thinking critically about social justice issues is a key skill for both professional social workers and those studying to become one. Choose a social justice issue about which you feel strongly and would like to address as a future social worker. Thinking critically:

1. Describe the issue.
2. Discuss reasons why you believe this is an important social justice issue.
3. Discuss the factors you believe contribute to this issue (e.g., societal values, policies, service gaps, etc.)
4. Describe what you think needs to happen on the micro-, mezzo-, and macro-levels to create change around this issue.

What Application Reviewers Assess When Reading Your Analytic Essay:

For both the personal statement and the analytic essay, the reviewers will:

- Assess your preparedness for graduate studies.
- Confirm you have adhered to the formatting instructions for each document.
- Validate use of credible sources cited in the essay that supports your analysis.
- Appraise your grammar and spelling skills.
- Evaluate your ability to think critically and respond in depth.
- Assess your ability to write a clear and well-organized response.
- Verify that all questions posed have been answered.

Reviewers will read your analytic essay to assess that you have:

- Described a social work justice issue and its importance fully and clearly.
- Presented a well thought out approach to create change around the issue.